(iii) Refund of the duty paid on any imported or excisable material used in the manufacture of export goods;

(iv) Exemption of export earning from income tax under Section 80 HHC and;

(v) Enhancement of duty credit rates under Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme on most of the iron and steel items to encourage export of iron and steel.

Revival Plan for Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur

607. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether revival plan for Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Durgapur has been submitted by the trade unions to the SAIL Management;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to restore ASP back to health from the present crisis;

(c) whether measures are being taken to technologically improve ASP's stainless steel making and casting facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (d) Trade Unions have submitted a revival plan for Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur to Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). In pursuance thereof, a committee has been constituted by SAIL to examine the various issues including the suggestions for technological improvement for reduction of cost of production and also improving stainless steel production.

Package for revival of SAIL

608. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any package for revival of loss-making SAIL;

(b) if so, the main proposals thereof;

(c) whether it has been cleared by the Ministry of Finance; and

(d) what is the time-frame for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (d) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has drawn a comprehensive plan of financial and business restructuring to turn around the Company and to ensure its long term viability.

The measures outlined in the plan include, *inter-alia*:

(i) A reduction in operational costs by reducing input costs, reducing consumption of raw materials and other inputs and by increasing operating efficiencies;

(ii) Improvement in techno-economic parameters such as fuel and power consumption;

(iii) Increased recovery for services/facilities;

(iv) Right sizing manpower through a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS);

(v) Assets restructuring;

(vi) Disposal of idle assets; and

(vii) Financial restructuring.

The Government is yet to take a decision in the matter.

Power supply to RSP

609. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rourkela Steel Plant entered into an agreement for the power supply with the private distributing company;